

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, each of the independent claims have been amended. Claims 1-54 are pending for further examination.

Claims 1-54 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gever. Claims 1-54 have been further rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Naka in view of Sasaki. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims herein are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

All of the independent claims have been amended to recite that the land object exists at the foot of the player object, and that the program control code is not visible to the user of the video game apparatus. In addition, independent claims 1, 12, 22, 32 and 42 have been amended to recite, in the manner indicated by the specific language of each individual claim, that an object exists adjacent to the land object and that the player object interacts with the object in a manner indicated by the program control code when the predetermined positional relationship exists between the player object and the land object.

None of Gever, Naka or Sasaki teach or suggest the particular combination of features set forth in the amended claims herein, whether considered alone or in combination. Gever teaches to embed a control code in sub-objects, such as furniture

objects, such that when the character reaches the furniture object the control code thereof causes the character to take an action with respect to the furniture, such as sitting on the furniture. Thus, in Gever, the control code is embedded in the object to which the action relates. In contrast, the amended claims requires that the control code be embedded in a land object that is adjacent to the object to which the action indicated by the control code relates. As a result, much more complex or varied actions can be programmed to occur, such as, depending on the direction in which the character is approaching the object to which the action relates. Naka has the same deficiencies as Gever relative to the new claims, and Sasaki fails to make up for these deficiencies. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims patentably distinguishes the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims patentably distinguish the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issuance at an early date are earnestly solicited.

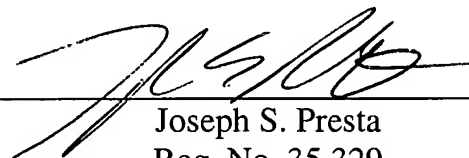
MIYAMOTO et al.
Appl. No. 10/757,510
April 4, 2005

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, or deem that any further issues need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph S. Presta
Reg. No. 35,329

JSP:mg
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100